



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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MEDICINE LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MEDICINE LAKE HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

MONTANA REFUGE ROAD PROJECT MELA 900(1)

The work got into full swing finally this week. As you go by the intersection of North Shore Road you will see the sign saying "Road Construction 2-miles". This is no way meant to discourage visitors to the refuge rather it informs as what is coming up. This sign gives the driver the chance to make a decision before making that drive. The refuge headquarters will remain fully accessible during construction. The traffic plan is to divert traffic as needed with detour signs to guide the unfamiliar user to their destination.

And yes the fabric that was lost for a while was delivered. We even found out those fabric rolls went first from Denver then unloaded at Rexburg Idaho. Once the shipping error, caused by the manufacturer was discovered the rolls were once again loaded up and aimed in the right direction.

You should see a steady stream of Sheridan Ready-Mix dump trucks hauling in base rock for under the concrete and old asphalt out to the County dump. The base rock is basically a $\frac{3}{4}$ " minus material which seems to compact very well. To reach compaction the contractor is using two Cat rollers, one a "sheeps foot" the other a smooth drum. However before these rollers start their work water is added to increase the moisture content of the rock. Depending on the rock sizing, amount of fine particles and where the rock came from determines the amount of water needed. If you add too much water you have mud, too little water and the rock will not compact. The right amount and the material will stay mixed with the fine particles clinging to larger.

And from Federal Highways, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and RB Constructors have a safe holiday weekend and remember to buckle-up.

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